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POTATOES & SWEETPOTATOES

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ESTIMATED POTATO STOCKS

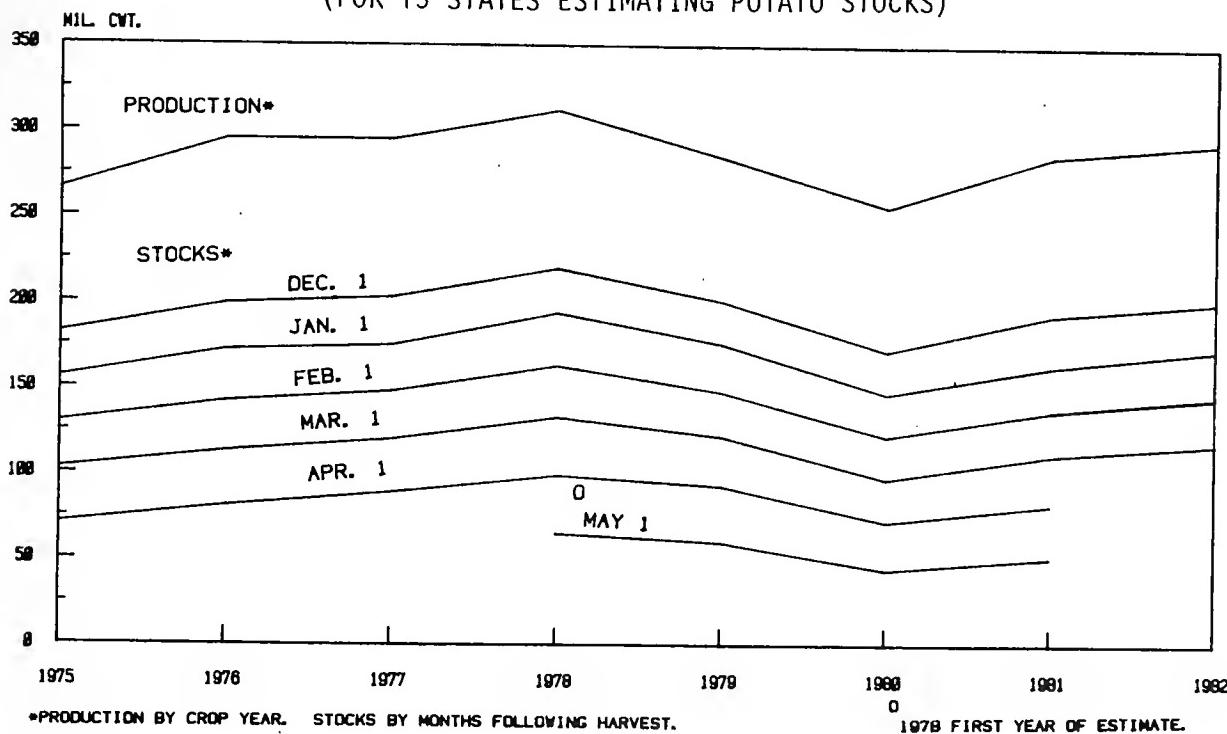
POTATO STOCKS UP 6 PERCENT

March 1, 1983 potato stocks are estimated at 117 million cwt (5.28 million metric tons) for the 15 major fall producing States. This is up 5 percent from last March 1 and 20 percent above two years ago. The March 1 stocks accounted for 40 percent of production in these 15 States compared with 39 percent a year ago.

In the three Eastern States, estimated holdings totaled 15.8 million cwt, 3 percent above a year ago and 14 percent above two years ago. Maine storage totaled 11.9 million cwt, 4 percent short of last March but 5 percent above two years ago. New York stocks are up 24 percent from last year while Pennsylvania holdings are up 40 percent.

(Comments continued on page 4)

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



*PRODUCTION BY CROP YEAR. STOCKS BY MONTHS FOLLOWING HARVEST.

1978 FIRST YEAR OF ESTIMATE.

NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage and loss and home use account for the remaining 10 percent.

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, APRIL 1, AND MAY 1 TOTAL STOCKS, AND COMPARABLE PRODUCTION FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS

| CROP YEAR | PRODUCTION | DEC 1 | JAN 1 | FEB 1 | MAR 1 | APR 1 | MAY 1 |
|--------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| 1,000 CWT | | | | | | | |
| 1972 | 242,390 | 155,190 | 132,050 | 105,690 | 82,510 | 57,860 | |
| 1973 | 247,686 | 154,890 | 131,600 | 105,360 | 80,460 | 55,465 | |
| 1974 | 278,679 | 183,850 | 160,100 | 131,480 | 102,963 | 75,217 | |
| 1975 | 266,422 | 181,720 | 156,220 | 129,710 | 102,850 | 70,970 | |
| 1976 | 294,978 | 198,630 | 172,230 | 142,030 | 112,830 | 81,130 | |
| 1977 | 295,421 | 202,550 | 175,300 | 147,930 | 119,850 | 88,680 | |
| 1978 | 311,981 | 219,850 | 193,520 | 162,980 | 132,570 | 99,250 | 64,830 |
| 1979 | 285,060 | 200,820 | 176,020 | 147,910 | 121,720 | 92,550 | 59,535 |
| 1980 | 255,691 | 171,730 | 146,610 | 121,565 | 97,280 | 72,460 | 44,446 |
| 1981 | 286,245 | 192,810 | 163,180 | 137,120 | 111,280 | 81,870 | 50,660 |
| 1982 | 294,082 | 201,775 | 173,500 | 144,950 | 116,500 | | |

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1981 AND 1982 CROPS

| STATE | STORAGE | TO DEC 1 | TO JAN 1 | TO FEB 1 | TO MAR 1 | TO APR 1 | TO MAY 1 | ENTIRE SEASON |
|--------------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG | 1981-82 | 16,720 | 21,450 | 26,000 | 31,205 | 36,840 | 42,270 | 56,585 |
| | 1982-83 | 14,330 | 18,645 | 23,395 | 28,535 | | | |
| MAINE 2/ | 1981-82 | 2,145 | 2,715 | 3,450 | 4,135 | 5,195 | 5,975 | 7,325 |
| | 1982-83 | 2,075 | 2,800 | 3,675 | 4,430 | | | |
| WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG | 1981-82 | 17,730 | 21,255 | 24,940 | 29,175 | 33,855 | 38,095 | 47,325 |
| | 1982-83 | 16,840 | 20,130 | 23,685 | 27,870 | | | |
| OTHER STATES 3/ | 1981-82 | 5,088 | 6,329 | 7,743 | 9,385 | 11,111 | 12,750 | 15,769 |
| | 1982-83 | 5,651 | 7,135 | 8,625 | 10,220 | | | |
| TOTAL | 1981-82 | 41,683 | 51,749 | 62,133 | 73,900 | 87,001 | 99,090 | 127,004 |
| | 1982-83 | 38,896 | 48,710 | 59,380 | 71,055 | | | |

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICH, MINN, N DAK OR WIS.

2/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ MICH, MINN, N DAK AND WIS.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS, AND LOCAL DEALERS ON MARCH 1, 1982 AND MARCH 1, 1983

| STATE | CROP OF 1981 | | | CROP OF 1982 | | |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------|---------|---------------------|------------------|---------|
| | : : : MAR 1 STOCKS: | | | : : : MAR 1 STOCKS: | | |
| | PRODUCTION | TOTAL STOCKS: | AS % OF | PRODUCTION | TOTAL STOCKS: | AS % OF |
| | : : : MAR 1, 1982 | : : : PRODUCTION | | : : : MAR 1, 1983 | : : : PRODUCTION | |
| | 1,000 CWT | PERCENT | | 1,000 CWT | PERCENT | |
| CALIF | 6,919 | 2,200 | 31 | 7,585 | 2,700 | 36 |
| COLO | 11,600 | 4,450 | 38 | 12,600 | 4,700 | 37 |
| IDAHO | 84,540 | 42,500 | 50 | 89,890 | 43,500 | 48 |
| MAINE | 26,520 | 12,400 | 47 | 26,500 | 11,900 | 45 |
| MICH | 7,050 | 2,000 | 28 | 8,085 | 2,700 | 33 |
| MINN | 13,300 | 5,400 | 41 | 11,520 | 5,300 | 46 |
| MONT | 1,739 | 1,450 | 83 | 1,924 | 1,650 | 86 |
| NEBR | 2,252 | 1,200 | 53 | 2,147 | 1,050 | 49 |
| N Y - L I | 5,365 | 350 | 7 | 4,995 | 550 | 11 |
| - UPSTATE | 6,875 | 1,100 | 16 | 7,020 | 1,250 | 18 |
| N DAK | 20,125 | 7,200 | 36 | 17,250 | 7,100 | 41 |
| OHIO | 1,890 | 80 | 4 | 2,328 | 70 | 3 |
| OREG | 21,710 | 8,300 | 38 | 21,105 | 9,400 | 45 |
| PA | 5,250 | 1,500 | 29 | 5,758 | 2,100 | 36 |
| WASH | 52,920 | 17,000 | 32 | 52,800 | 17,100 | 32 |
| WIS | 18,190 | 4,150 | 23 | 22,575 | 5,430 | 24 |
| 15 STATE TOTAL | 286,245 | 111,280 | 39 | 294,082 | 116,500 | 40 |

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the March 1, 1983 potato stocks estimates, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, has been calculated. This is computed by expressing the deviations between the March 1 preliminary estimate and the final estimate as a percent of the final estimate and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1963-82 twenty-year period. The square root of this average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error". Probability statements can be made concerning expected errors in the current preliminary estimate relative to the final end of season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year's estimate are not different from those influencing recent years's preliminary estimate.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the March 1, 1983 potato stocks estimate is 3.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 117 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.6 percent or approximately 4.19 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.3 percent or approximately 7.34 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the March 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.15 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 5.12 and the smallest was 0.30 million hundredweight. The preliminary March 1 estimate was below the final estimate 8 out of the past 10 years.



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(Continued from page 1)

Stocks in the six Central States totaled 21.7 million cwt, 8 percent greater than a year ago and more than doubled two years ago. Wisconsin stocks at 5.4 million cwt are up 31 percent; Michigan holdings at 2.7 million are up 35 percent. Minnesota potato stocks at 5.3 million cwt are down 2 percent from last year; and North Dakota stocks of 7.1 million cwt are 1 percent lower.

The six Western States held an estimated 79.1 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 1983, 4 percent more than a year ago and 13 percent more than two years ago. Idaho stocks at 43.5 million cwt are up 2 percent from last year, as the overage from last year seems to be dissipating. Additional quantities of frost damaged potatoes were removed from cellars by Idaho farmers during February. Farmers speculate that up to 3 1/2 percent of the potatoes remaining in storage March 1 may not be marketable due to frost damage. Potato shrink continues to run above normal. Washington stocks of 17.1 million cwt are up 1 percent; while Oregon holdings of 9.4 million cwt are up 13 percent from last year.

Disappearance to March 1, 1983 in the 15 major fall States totals 178 million cwt, 1.5 percent above the same period a year ago. This includes 25.6 million cwt of potatoes dumped during grading, fed to livestock on potato farms, discarded without grading and lost to shrinkage (moisture loss) compared with 21.6 million cwt a year earlier. Disappearance for the month of February totaled 28.5 million cwt compared with 25.8 million cwt for February 1982.

Potatoes processed to March 1, 1983 in eight major processing States totaled 71.1 million cwt, 4 percent less than in the same period a year earlier. Processing during February totaled 11.7 million cwt compared with 11.8 million cwt for February 1982.

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